

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OIC-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:WMATTHEWS:JD

APPROVED BY USOAS:REWHITE

ARA/CAR:THEAVNER

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P 010119Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, NS

SUBJECT: SPECIAL GA OF OAS TO ADMIT SURINAM

1. AT GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 29, PANAMA PROPOSED AND PERU SECONDED THE CALLING OF A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESUMABLY DECEMBER OR JANUARY, FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF ADMITTING SURINAM TO OAS. GUATEMALA, UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA SPOKE AGAINST SPECIAL GA FOR THAT PURPOSE. U.S. DELEGATE SAID HE OPPOSED ON GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION SURINAM DESIRED SPECIAL GA TO EXPEDITE ADMISSION PRIOR TO REGULAR GA WHICH WILL MEET BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE, THAT THERE IS NO GOOD PRECEDENT FOR SUCH ACTION AND THAT SPECIAL GA FOR SURINAM WOULD ALMOST MANDATE SIMILAR TREATMENT FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT NEW MEMBER.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO DEBATE, GENERAL COMMITTEE POSTPONED ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING (PROBABLY WEEK DECEMBER 5)

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TO ENABLE PROPONENTS OF SPECIAL GA TO CONTACT SURINAM

AMBASSADOR AND DETERMINE WHETHER SURINAM DESIRES SPECIAL GA TO EXPEDITE ENTRY.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT GOS MIGHT NEGATIVELY INTERPRET U.S. STATEMENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONTACT FOREIGN OFFICE AND EXPLAIN THAT U.S. OPPOSITION WAS PURELY PROCEDURAL AND THAT U.S. VOTED IN FAVOR SURINAM'S ADMISSION AND STRONGLY ENDORSES ITS MEMBERSHIP. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED INFORM FONOFF THAT WHILE WE WOULD PREFER SURINAM'S ADMISSION AT REGULAR GA, WHICH WILL BE HELD BETWEEN APRIL AND JUNE, ON GROUND THAT SPECIAL GA FOR THAT PURPOSE WOULD ESTABLISH UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT, NONETHELESS IF GOS SPECIFICALLY DESIRES SPECIAL GA FOR EARLIER ADMISSION, WE WILL SUPPORT.

4. FYI: WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PROPONENTS OF SPECIAL GA FOR THIS PURPOSE MIGHT OBTAIN SURINAM AMBASSADOR'S ROUTINE REQUEST FOR SPECIAL GA WITHOUT EXPLAINING THAT THIS WOULD SET PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THE FUTURE MINI-STATE MEMBERSHIP PROBLEM OF THE CARIBBEAN BRITISH ASSOCIATED STATES. WHILE GENERAL ASSEMBLY USUALLY ATTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OAS COUNTRIES, SUCH ATTENDANCE IS NOT OBLIGATORY. IN EVENT SPECIAL GA WERE CALLED FOR ADMISSION OF SURINAM, IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE HELD AT OAS HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE ATTENDED ENTIRELY OR PREDOMINATELY BY AMBASSADORS TO OAS WHO NORMALLY REPRESENT THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON PERMANENT COUNCIL. SURINAM'S ADMISSION AT REGULAR GA WOULD THEREFORE ENSURE HIGHER LEVEL EXPOSURE. END FYI.

5. PLEASE REPORT ANY GOS REACTION, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER IT IS INSTRUCTING ITS AMBASSADOR TO REQUEST A SPECIAL GA DESPITE THE ABOVE. ROBINSON

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